

## Tribute to a Christian mother

By Linda Mattox, Rlenzi

Her children arise up, and call her blessed. . . (Prov. 31:28).  
Once each year we pay tribute to mothers all across our nation. However, those of us who have been blessed with a Christian mother should thank God daily for the gift of love he has given us through her. All who know the love of a Christian mother can certainly identify with the following attributes I see in my own mother.



Mattox

When I could do nothing for myself, she met my physical and emotional needs. As I began to develop, she had the strength to allow me to attempt tasks on my own. I'm sure many times it would have been easier simply to say, "Let me do it." Yet, she encouraged me to stand on my own.

When I was a child she listened to and coached me as I read assignments, memorized poetry, and studied for exams.

When I could not understand the trying circumstances of this life and felt crushed, she showed compassion and felt my hurts, too.

She patiently listened as I tried to rationalize the behavior of those persons I did not understand and shared my pain of not always being accepted.

She believed in me and my abilities even when I lost faith in myself.

She made sure I was in church regularly and prayed for me to accept Christ as my personal Savior until I made my commitment to him.

Yes, a Christian mother is a prized individual. She is as patient as Job in dealing with her child. She never gives up on him even though failures come his way. She believes in him and stands by ready to lend a helping hand and a word of encouragement.

A Christian mother is wise. She allows her child the opportunity to develop as an individual and learn how to make his own decisions.

A Christian mother helps instill Christian characteristics in her child as she leads him to follow the example set forth by Christ.

Thank God for the influence of Christian mothers. Without this influence, many of us might never have come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

(Linda Mattox, vocational counselor at Biggersville High School, is a member of Union Baptist Church, Corinth, Miss.)

## capsules

### Grandparents' rights

WASHINGTON (BP)—The House of Representatives has passed a resolution expressing "the sense of Congress" that grandparents' rights to visit their grandchildren following the dissolution of the marriage of the children's parents should be protected.

H. Con. Res. 45 calls on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to develop a model state act granting grandparents adequate rights to petition courts for visitation privileges when the marriage of the grandchildren's parents has ended in divorce, separation or death.

### Accredited

FORREST CITY, Ark. — Baptist Memorial Hospital-Forrest City has received continued accreditation for a three-year term by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

BMH-Forrest City is one of nine institutions affiliated with the Memphis-based Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.

Other affiliates are in Memphis, Ripley, Covington, Union City and Huntingdon, Tenn.; Booneville, Miss.; and Hardy and Corning, Ark. The system is owned by the Baptist state conventions of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

### Abortion debate

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Senate Judiciary Committee has cleared the way for floor debate on a constitutional amendment aimed at overturning the controversial 1973 Supreme Court ruling that the constitution protects a woman's right to privacy in abortion decisions.

Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-Utah) one-sentence proposal (S.J. Res. 3) declares that "the right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution." It is designed to restore the law to its pre-1973 status when states could pass either

restrictive or permissive abortion statutes.

A Hatch spokesman said he expects full Senate consideration the first of June.

### Sooner witness

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Some 600 professions of faith were recorded in 61 revivals conducted in Spanish churches by teams of 203 Oklahoma ministers, singers, and lay people in mid-April.

The Sooners represented 82 Oklahoma churches and returned from Spain with testimonies of "witnessing in the streets" experiences, spirited revival services, and life-changing events in the lives of the Spanish.

"This effort resulted in one profession of faith for every 10 Baptist church members in Spain," Joe L. Ingram, BGCO executive director-treasurer, reported.

### Ministerial severance

WASHINGTON (BP)—A defrocked and fired minister of a California-based religious sect will collect severance pay from the church following U.S. Supreme Court refusal to hear the church's appeal that civil courts have no jurisdiction in such disputes.

The high court action leaves in place rulings by California state courts that Richard A. Gipe, dismissed from the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God for "preaching heresy, disloyalty, and causing confusion in the Church," is entitled to \$3,269 in severance pay.

### NCC ruling

NEW YORK (EP)—Since the National Council of Churches does not clearly define what a church is, the NCC's 32 Protestant and Orthodox members must each decide separately on the membership application of a homosexual church based on their own ecclesiology, says a report by NCC's faith and order commission.

## Bob Hamblin sees "major evangelical awakening"

By Patti Stephenson

ATLANTA (BP)—Record-breaking attendance, outbreaks of revival, renewed interest and commitment to communicating the gospel—these highlights of recent state evangelism conferences may herald the coming of a "major evangelical awakening in

"While we're debating the Bible, most Baptists are interested in hearing what the Bible says and doing it."

America," according to Bob Hamblin, Home Mission Board evangelism vice president.

Hamblin, former pastor of Tupelo's Harrisburg Church, and other HMB evangelism staff and consultants attend 38 state evangelism conferences annually. The latest spate of these gatherings, which attract primarily pastors, denominational leaders and also an increasing number of laypersons, have been marked by a "unique unity," Hamblin reported. "Pastors of large and small churches, seminary and college professors, denominational leaders, laypeople from rural suburban and metropolitan churches—all are calling for better ways to communicate the gospel."

Hamblin assessed this common concern as "an indication we have a unity

in the Southern Baptist Convention centered around evangelism and missions. People are really interested in getting on with winning the world to Jesus."

"While we're debating the Bible, most Baptists are interested in hearing what the Bible says and doing it," Hamblin noted. Evangelism meetings are focusing on "how-tos" as well as the typical inspirational format, he said. "What we've seen means we need to do a better job of presenting the means of evangelizing."

Glenn Sheppard, the HMB's special assistant in spiritual awakening, said, "We've heard people calling for programs anointed of God rather than methodological machinery to build institutions" and pastors are exhibiting a "more positive and open attitude toward implementing a prayer strategy for spiritual awakening." He predicted, "We're on the brink of real revival—not just emotional, but a movement of real depth."

The HMB leaders attributed the interest in revival to a "sense of desperation" among Americans. "People feel circumstances have gotten out of control and realize God must intervene in society," Hamblin explained.

Other major awakenings have occurred in the late 1950s, and again in the early '70s when the "Jesus Movement" stormed the nation. "Other great revivals have had a great impact

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# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1983

Volume CVII, Number 14

## FMB optimistic Jordan may permit couple's return

AMMAN, Jordan (BP)—Jordan has denied residence permits for three Southern Baptist missionaries, but one couple may be allowed to return, according to a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official.

Isam Ballenger, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe and the Middle East, said it is still impossible to determine why Jordan revoked the residence permits of two missionaries and denied a permit for a third in March.

Jordanian officials revoked the permits of missionary nurse Ruth Ann McConnell of Kentucky and missionary pharmacist Gary Tapp of Georgia. Tapp's wife, Judy, also was denied a permit.

Recent articles in a Jordan newspaper quoted pro-Israel statements made by New Right religious leaders in the United States. However, Ballenger said it would be "premature and perhaps misdirected" to assume that the Jordan actions came in response to those articles.

Soon after the articles appeared, Tapp went to government officials to seek a residence permit for his wife, Judy. The officials refused to grant it and revoked permits already granted to Tapp and McConnell.

Since then Jordan has granted entry to a new missionary teacher, Gerry Volkart of Missouri, for the Baptist school in Amman.

The Tapps have been waiting in Cyprus with their two small children while new efforts are being made to obtain the necessary residence per-

mits to re-enter Jordan. McConnell, a registered nurse, is working at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen.

Ballenger said he would not be surprised if there were actions against mission work and missionaries in Arab countries because of such pro Is-

rael statements. But he said he did not want to second-guess the governments of these Arab countries or make any such interpretation "without clear and sufficient knowledge."

He said these countries have certain laws and procedures they follow in

matters of entry, and added that "we cannot always understand the reason why certain actions are taken."

But he does believe there is a fair chance the Tapps will be allowed to return. Southern Baptists have 36 mis-

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A giant tea party honored the Mississippi visitors at the end of their stay in Argentina as more than 200 women met in the fellowship hall of the Once Baptist Church in Buenos Aires. (Don McGregor photos.)

### In Rio de la Plata

## Mississippi women teach 'Gifted Woman'

By Don McGregor

Twenty women from Mississippi have returned from a trip to the countries of the Rio de la Plata, where they divided into 10 teams; and all were engaged in teaching the book, "The Gifted Woman I Am," to women in the churches of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina.

The book was written by Marjorie Kelly, wife of Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and she was the coordinator of the presentation of the book in South America. It has been translated into Spanish.

Kelly and I were in South America at the same time though not in the same places. Our paths crossed with those of the women from time to time during the two-weeks time we were in the three countries, and always the reports were enthusiastic.

As reported last week, we were in Florida, Uruguay, at the time Ethel McKeithen, recently retired Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union staff member, and Doris Diaz, a staff member with the Southern Baptist WMU, were teaching the book.

We followed Georgia Collum of Jackson, wife of the retired Mississippi Baptist Evangelism director, and Maude Womack of Jackson, retired from the Sunday School Department, into the Neuquen Province.

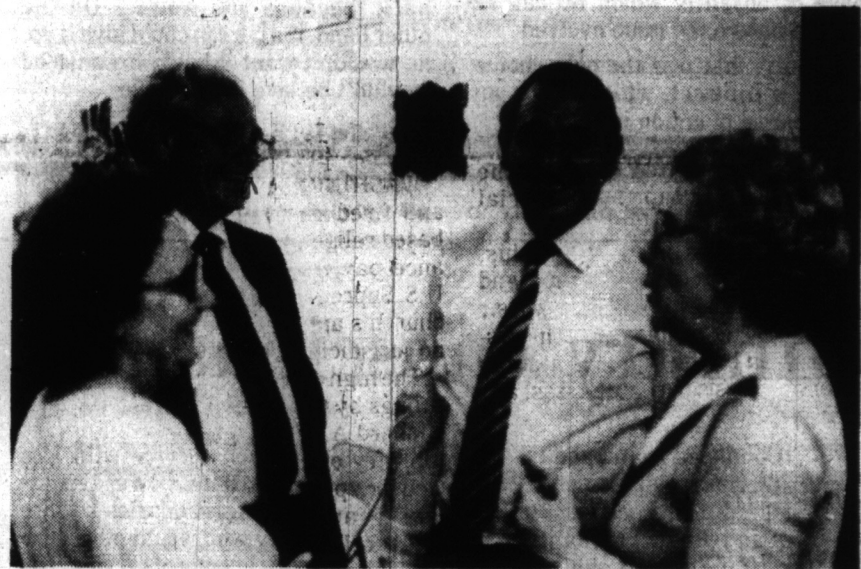
We had occasion to visit briefly in Buenos Aires with Bobbie Travis, wife of a Hattiesburg attorney, and Jerry Kemp, wife of a Columbia businessman.

And we were able to be in the teaching session at the church in Montevideo, Uruguay, where the team members were Joy Yates, wife of James F. Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Rebecca Williams, wife of the pastor of First Church, Gautier. They were pictured last week.

Always the reports were good.

The women were altogether only once after their ways parted at Rio de Janeiro. On the last day in Argentina they gathered at the headquarters building for the Argentine convention (the national Baptist convention) to be welcomed by the Argentine executive

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Marjorie Kelly, right, makes a point with Mrs. Ignacio Loredo, left, Earl Kelly, second from left, and Loredo during a visit to the Baptist Building in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Prayer figures in Beirut bomb blast

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Three members of the Southern Baptist mission family in Lebanon had figured to be at the American Embassy in Beirut April 18. None of them made it and they believe prayer had something to do with saving their lives.

All three would have been at the embassy about 1:05 p.m. when a powerful car bomb shattered the building, killing at least 60 persons and injuring more than 100.

Missionary Linda Sacco had agreed to drop by there with her American friend Becky, a new Christian married to a Lebanese, after Becky picked up her child at school at 12:15 p.m. Missionary Frances Fuller had planned several errands, the last at 1 p.m., to take care of passport business at the embassy. She had been told early afternoon was the best time.

At Becky's house, everything went wrong all morning. At noon, her housework was unfinished and, frustrated, she decided not to go by the embassy. Fuller got tied up in a meeting. Before leaving for Beirut, she decided to phone to make sure she could still see someone on her list. He was unavailable so she put off her errands until the next day.

The Saccos' 14-year-old son, Paul, had an even closer call with the bombing. He and a friend at the American Community School found themselves with a free hour after lunch and slipped into their jogging clothes. They planned to run up the wide sidewalk by the sea, past the embassy and back. But as they neared the embassy—just before 1 p.m.—a sudden cold shower began to fall and they turned back.

Two days before the blast, missionaries to Lebanon concluded a mission meeting by drawing names and promising to pray for each other.

"By (Monday) evening the entire city was in sorrow but some of the

day's frustrations had started to make sense," Fuller, the mission's press representative, reported. "And some who had prayed for their fellow missionaries were humbly thankful for answers."

(Related story on page 3.)

## Evangelists to hear Swimmer, Celoria

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP)—Mississippians figure prominently in a steady diet of preaching and special music which will dominate the planned program of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Pittsburgh June 13-15.

There is a fellowship time planned for 10 p.m. June 13-15 following the evening sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention and a breakfast business meeting June 14.

But the focus will be on June 15 beginning at 12:30 p.m. After a 45-minute concert featuring various SBC music evangelists, the conference will hear messages from Michael Gott, evangelist from Jacksonville, Fla.; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Arthur Blessitt, evangelist from Hollywood, Calif.

Between the sermons will be special music by R. O. and Angie Stone from Rome, Ga.; Jerry Swimmer from Iuka, Miss.; Lee Castro, Nashville, Tenn.; and Alan Celoria, Jackson, Miss.

Following a break for the annual banquet at 5:30 p.m., Rick Scarborough, conference president from Houston, will preach and Lonnie Parsons, music evangelist from San Antonio, will present special music.

All sessions will be at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

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## Ministry consciousness with laity needs raising

By Joe Westbury

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Greater lay involvement in Bold Mission Thrust was a common theme at the Brotherhood Commission Missions Impact 2000 Committee meeting.

The growing need for mission volunteers coupled with increased Brotherhood leadership to motivate and direct their energies, will play a crucial role in the denomination-wide appeal to evangelism and disciple making, program personalities agreed. The seminar was the second input session in the Brotherhood Commission's two-year self-study.

Richard Broholm, executive director of the Center of Ministry for the Laity at Andover-Newton Theological School, called on the Brotherhood Commission to educate Baptist laity so they will understand "God calls everyone equally to missions and service is not limited to traditional church workers."

"He does not limit himself to theological specialists in communicating with mankind—he uses people from all walks of life as missionaries where they live and work," he added.

The Brotherhood Commission can

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## Editorials

by don mcgregor

## Mother's Day and the Children's Village

Mother's Day in the United States probably enjoys the widest observation of any special day other than Christmas. That is as it should be. Over and over we hear the testimonies of great people as they tell of the influence of a godly mother in their lives. Please note that the word, godly, should be emphasized.

It is very likely that right-thinking mothers have had more influence for good than any other group among us. They deserve all of the honor that can be afforded them through the observation of a day or in whatever way is proper.

Mother's Day, as such, is not a religious observation, even though it is observed on Sunday. The Bible is not without its description of the nobility of a good woman, however. Strength and honor are the clothes of a virtuous woman, the writer of Proverbs said as he concluded his writings with a tribute to godly women. "Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her," he wrote.

Then he said, "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

So Mother's Day is a time to pay tribute to these people who have meant so much through the ages and will continue to make tremendous contributions to our well-being until the Lord comes again.

Mother's Day is the culmination of Christian Home Week on the Mississippi Baptist Calendar. This is an observation sponsored by the Christian Action Commission.

Christian Home Week brings our thoughts to bear on the family, and surely we have need to give serious attention to the family. It is the basic unit of society beyond the individual, and without it society is in trouble in all of its aspects. Yet there are many forces to be dealt with in these times that would destroy the family if given the opportunity.

We as Mississippi Baptists particularly must be protective of the family in any way that we can and seek to keep the family as a stackpole on which to build all of the other structures of our society.

Yet we have among us, we Mississippi Baptists, a group of folks whose family structures have been severely threatened or destroyed by one force

or another; and they need our help. They are the residents of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village and its auxiliary campuses. We are the family, at least at this point in time, for those children and young people.

The Baptist Children's Village can always use more money than it has, but only one time during the year can it make an overt appeal for money. That is on Mother's Day. Each year the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are urged to take an offering on Mother's Day for the Children's Village.

Every year the offering is critical. This year it is no less so. It may be even more so. The times have been unstable economically as well as otherwise recently, and this has caused serious difficulties for the Children's Village in its efforts to minister to these children whose homes have been taken from them.

And remember, those who perform the ministry at the Children's Village are not people who decided to start such a ministry on their own, though such a decision would have been a noble purpose. These people, however, are those who we have sent to do this work. We as Mississippi Baptists es-

tablished the Children's Village, and we have declared that we will support it.

This we do through the Cooperative Program throughout the year, but that is not enough to cover adequately the needs of ministry to the children. The lives of the children at the Village have been disrupted at best. We need to make provisions as adequately as we possible can for their security and well-being.

The work is growing, not because the administration wants to have a larger operation but because the needs are increasing. Soon there will be six locations at which Mississippi Baptists will be saying to homeless children, "Come live with us. You can feel safe here. We will take care of you and provide for your needs."

The needs are not in the future, however. We have already made that statement to more than 500 children who are or have been residents of the Village during the past year.

We have no choice but to provide for them. Let's do it adequately with a generous Mother's Day offering for the Children's Village.

What better way would there be to bring honor to our mothers?



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Mama's prayers

Here is a piece of wrinkled Blue Horse notebook paper, pencilled with Mama's plans for a WMU program. It isn't dated, but I know this was written during World War II, because she's talking about the need for new missionaries to be appointed after the war, especially to Japan and China, and about damaged church buildings, hospitals, and publishing houses that will need to be rebuilt. At the bottom of the page is her written prayer "for strength and wisdom to meet the needs and problems of the Orient," for "funds for the enlargement of our entire missionary undertaking," and for "spiritual power to serve God faithfully with our lives."

I'm sure Mama doesn't know I still have it—but here it is—a yellowed clipping from the Alabama Baptist, dated October, 1946. It was reprinted from the Baptist Student, "A Prayer for the First Night at College." And in Mama's handwriting across the top—"For you, from me."

The second paragraph begins this way: "When on this first night of strangeness the rosy dream seems gray, and the longing to go back even for a moment sweeps over the soul, comfort them, thou Christ, who was young and lonely and can understand."

A few years ago, during the '70's, Mama's smokehouse burned, and I wrote an article about the fire, for *Mature Living*. The editors presented my memories of the smokehouse, but deleted the section about Mama's prayer being answered that day.

Built, I presume, for storing hams and sausage, our smokehouse had instead become a treasure house of everything Mama had saved for nearly 40 years—old furniture, old clothes,

old wash tubs, old magazines, old books, and much etcetera. It was a two-story building, with a carport on one side and an old "wagon shelter" on the other. It stood a mere 30 feet from the house.

On a windy day a trash fire got out of hand. Flames swiftly climbed the pine walls and roared toward the sky. They scorched utility poles, trees, an old car, and jumped over a butane gas tank (which did not explode!)

By the time the fire department arrived from Lafayette, ten miles away, it was too late to save the smokehouse, so the men concentrated on trying to save the house, for high gusts of wind were bending the tall tongues of fire steadily toward it. Neighbors began moving furniture and clothing out of the house. Firefighters said, "There's no way we can stop it! We don't know what else to do." Almost they were ready to give up.

But Mama knew what to do. She was praying. And just as the shrubbery next to the house began to smolder and smoke, and the shingles on the roof began to curl and turn brown from the heat, the wind—in an instant—changed direction, and fanned the flames away from the house. He commandeth even the winds . . . and they obey him (Luke 8:25).

Every time I've ever gone on a long trip, Mama has written me before I left, promising her prayers for my safety. Somehow I felt quite sure always that the ship would stay afloat and the planes keep flying, for were they not given extra buoyancy by her prayers? Happy Mother's Day, Mama! And thank you for every prayer you ever offered on my behalf.

May the benediction of Prov. 31:31 be on you.

## The Dale Moody solution

The recent episode surrounding the life and career of Dale Moody, professor at Southern Seminary has been interesting and also tragic. The tragedy was two-fold in that it caused a man's teaching career to be terminated before he was ready for it to be, and the termination came because he refused to adjust his efforts to meet the demands of just about everybody else among Southern Baptists who had given the matter much thought.

I believe, however, that the matter was handled as judiciously and as fairly as was possible for it to be. He was not put out in the middle of a semester, which, had it happened, would only have compounded the tragedy. He was allowed to close out the semester and then was given a leave of absence, which he had requested before the issue evolved.

Actually, that was the only choice. He had a contract, which made any other course of action impossible.

President Roy Honeycutt is to be commended for his understanding of the circumstances and his ability to

handle a very sensitive situation in the best way possible.

Maybe I am all wet on this thing, but I don't believe I agree with Professor Moody. He is the scholar, and I am not; but I have trouble trying to understand his point of view. As I understand it in my limited fashion, however, I am not sure that very many people have heard him properly. The words "falling from grace" keep cropping up, and I don't think that is what Moody is talking about. Falling from grace would seem to be an involuntary thing, while Moody's definition of apostasy seems to be a willful denial of or a giving up of one's salvation.

Moody seems to be saying, "If you give up your salvation (which would be a willful action), don't expect to get it back, because you won't." On the other hand, if a person could give it up, he wouldn't want it back, because he wouldn't believe it was valid.

The question is, of course, can a person who has come under the grace of God and found salvation give it up of his own free will. Personally, I have

not come to the point where I can believe that he can. If he would be able to give it up, it is hard to imagine that he ever had it. If he had truly been saved and had an understanding of the circumstances, there would be no way that he would want to give it up. He would have to be an utter fool to make such a choice.

Perhaps it would be possible for a person to say, "I do not believe any more." But the question cannot be avoided: did he ever believe in the first place? Moody says it is possible.

The issue holds more than a passing interest with me, for I first became involved with Moody in it about 22 years ago. I didn't agree with him then either, but I was more personally involved. Following his espousal of his views on apostasy in Oklahoma, a group of Oklahoma pastors were reported to be seeking to have his connection severed with Southern Seminary. I persuaded Baptist Press to request that the story be held up until Moody could make a statement in his own defense.

I was associate editor at the Baptist

Standard in Texas then, and shortly after Moody was visiting in Texas and came by the office. He seemed grateful for my intervention, and he took out his Greek New Testament to explain his position. From the Greek he read Hebrews 6:4-6 to me in English. He explained the situation in terms of temporary faith and permanent faith.

But in my effort to understand, I asked if a person were to die before his temporary faith ran out, would he be saved? The question was not answered, probably because it showed such an abject lack of understanding.

The reasonable likelihood would seem to be that if his faith were only temporary it would not be a genuine commitment, and therefore he wouldn't be saved.

Finally, however, the same issue that followed Moody's footsteps 22 years ago has resulted in his teaching career being concluded. In a way it is a strange circumstance, for there is not a man among us who would seem to believe more fiercely in the inerrancy and the total inspiration of the Word of God than does Moody. Not long ago there were statements that some did not believe in those two concepts and that they should be suspect because of their failure to so believe. Now here is a man whose career has been shortened to some degree because he has refused to back away from what he believes the Bible says.

If a man's actions are to be questioned, what more noble issue can there be for him to drive his stakes into? While I do not agree with him, I am glad he was able to walk away with dignity. For that also I commend President Honeycutt and the trustees of Southern Seminary.

## Ministry consciousness needs . . .

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help Southern Baptist laymen recover the New Testament concept of gifts of believers and the responsibility of all members of the church, said Malcolm Tolbert, professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Tolbert challenged the Brotherhood to continue to raise that level of consciousness so the ministry will not be relegated to just traditional church workers. "Southern Baptists need to take God seriously when it comes to mission involvement," the Wake Forest instructor pointed out. Tolbert said the laity also needs a clearer understanding of what missions is all about and challenged the commission to help eliminate wrong motives for evangelism.

"A common misconception is our use of fear in explaining what God will do to the lost if we don't reach them. In reality we should be motivated to share the Gospel because God commanded it and it is we who will one day give an account to him," the professor explained.

"The purpose of missions is not to save people from the flames of hell but to end the alienation that has severed mankind from fellowship with God since the Garden of Eden. We need both concepts clarified in order to place missions in its proper perspective," he added.

Leonard Irwin, vice president in the planning section of the Home Mission Board, challenged the Brotherhood Commission to provide greater direction in evangelism and starting of new churches. "Forty percent of the American population still does not affiliate with any Christian church," he reminded the committee members.

The Atlanta, Ga., resident detailed sections of the nation, including the South, which are right for lay missions projects but are being lost to other denominations. "Though we are the nation's largest Protestant denomination, we have made less than a token appearance in our nation's largest cities. In our 50 latest cities, comprising 46 percent of our population we find only 25 percent of Southern Baptists and only 17 percent of our churches," he said.

Charles Chaney, dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology and Church Relations at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., called for a new organizational structure that will enable more laymen to enter foreign

and home mission service with less stringent regulations. "We desperately need more missionaries but are excluding many who would otherwise reach out in this avenue of service," he explained.

Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford urged stronger ties between the WMU and Brotherhood on the church, associational and state level. Such a

move would provide a more thorough means of communicating missions education to the entire Baptist community, she said.

Committee members of Missions Impact 2000 will continue to evaluate specific programs and make recommendations to the commission in 1985.

(Westbury is associate editor of World Mission Journal.)

## Salvadoran refugees march through Seattle

VALLEY FORGE, PA (EP)—Palm Sunday was the occasion of a contemporary march through city streets—not in Jerusalem, but in Seattle, Wash., according to American Baptist News Service.

The University Baptist Church of Seattle, which has been provided sanctuary for five undocumented refugees from persecution in El Salvador, joined with members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in a march from the University Church to the Blessed Sacrament Church, commemorating the assassination of El Salvador's Catholic archbishop Oscar Romero three years ago and, in doing so, sent a message of protest to the Reagan Administration about continued US military aid to the Salvadoran government, and US policy as regards asylum to refugees from it.

More than 2,000 persons participated in the demonstration, led by Seattle's archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, Superior Court Judge Charles Z. Smith, William Cate, president of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, and Donovan Cook of University Baptist Church. Judge Smith is a member of First Baptist Church of Seattle and one-time president of the American Baptist Churches.

Church council president Cate declared that US military aid to El Salvador "makes us part of a conspiracy of evil against the people of El Salvador." Smith urged that citizens "petition our government for a more appropriate response to the Salvadorans who can't help themselves." There are now some 16 churches across the US which are providing sanctuary to people who flee their homelands and are unable to gain official political asylum in the U.S. (The churches mentioned are affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, not the SBC).

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The building sense of revival within Southern Baptist ranks will result in "greater personal involvement of pastors and laypeople in such personal witnessing," Hamblin noted, with corresponding increases in the number of persons won to Christ.

Sheppard concluded, "We define revival not just as a meeting but as an invasion of God. We think God is responding to our prayers." (Stephenson is HMB acting news editor.)

## Hamblin sees

(Continued from page 1)

on our cities and we hope this one will, too," Hamblin said.

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## In defense of Moody

I am a very conservative pastor. As a matter of fact, no one could have a more conservative view of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures than I. Moreover, I firmly believe in the perseverance of the saints, or the security of the believer, or once saved, always saved. And believe it or not, I am indebted to Dr. Dale Moody for the intensity with which I hold these doctrines.

In my early years of preparation for the ministry I became intrigued with the hypercritical approach to the Bible espoused by some of the German writers. Their liberal approach to the Scriptures began to chip away at the very foundation of my faith. My devotion to the Word of God was watered down to practically nothing. It was at that distressful time that I enrolled in classes taught by Dr. Moody. I had never seen or heard such a brilliant man. Neither had I ever encountered an individual as steeped in the Word of God and as committed to its inspiration and authority. He influenced me so profoundly that in time I got back on the right track and over a period of several years God implanted in my heart the indelible conviction that His Word is absolutely reliable. I will be eternally grateful for Dr. Moody's influence on my life.

For several years I listened to him as he stated his case about falling from grace. I was very defensive and took issue with him in the classroom! He and I stood in the hallways and sat in the cafeteria for many, many hours disputing and debating the doctrine of eternal security. I remember the first time I challenged him on the issue. I came at him armed with my cliches, proof of texts, outworn phrases, and a couple of homespun illustrations. At every point, he countered with verses of Scripture that I had never honestly

dealt with. Dr. Moody forced me to support my concepts with solid exegesis of Scripture, rather than cliches, creeds, and traditions. Over a period of time I have studied in depth all of Dr. Moody's key passages and feel that they do not teach that a person can fall from grace. Now I hold this cherished doctrine of perseverance, not because I inherited it, but because I honestly feel the Scriptures teach it. Again, I must give Dr. Moody the credit for stimulating my interest and forcing me to go to God's Word to substantiate my beliefs.

Barry Landrum  
Pastor, First Baptist  
Church, Pasadena, Tex.  
Readers will remember Barry Landrum as a former pastor of First Church, Greenville.—Editor

## Water for Upper Volta

Editor:

Early this morning Guy Causey, long term volunteer agriculturalist, and I left the camp as other volunteers began their work in literacy programs, vaccinations, construction projects, veterinarian care, tree planting, building water catchments, and many other projects all related to our rural development program. Our first stop was the village of Geonatenga. We received word yesterday that women were fighting over water in this village. We went with the eldest son of the old crippled chief to inspect several little hand-dug wells in a low area just below a water catchment that we had just finished constructing.

To our surprise every one of the 10 holes in the ground had a small padlock attached to an old bicycle chain barring other people from "stealing" their water. Each hole contained approximately 20 gallons of the precious liquid. There is only one concrete-cased hand-dug well to serve this entire village of 1,600 people.

So the villagers started digging a

well with a promise of help from us to case it with concrete (uncased wells cave in during the first rains.) After several weeks of digging through clay and rocky soil, the sides started caving in at a depth of 50 feet.

Today we abandoned that hole and chose another site. Only minutes after marking it off, an elderly man approached us pointing to an indentation in the earth only 30 yards from where we were standing, saying, "We dug a hole 60 feet deep here many years ago, but we found no water." Our hearts sank, but I decided that we would claim God's promise in Isaiah 41:17: "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them."

We knelt there and prayed a simple prayer asking for water.

Tomorrow they will begin a new well. Will you claim God's promise with us?

Larry Cox  
B.P. 580  
Ouagadougou, Upper Volta  
Larry Cox is a missionary from Mississippi.—Editor

## The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

515 Mississippi Street  
Box 530

Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

Official Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention  
Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Odie Henderson, Cleveland; Tom Hudson, Jackson, vice-chairman; James Jackson, Columbia, Robert H. Jackson, Brandon; Dan Thompson, Ackerman; Ex officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary.  
Subscriptions: \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.  
Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Miss.



# Mississippi women teach book



Mrs. Bresci, center, embraces Mrs. Kelly following the presentation of a plaque from the Baptist women of Argentina in appreciation of the visit of 20 Baptist women of Mississippi. Doris Diaz of the SBC WMU stands at right and was interpreting.



Mrs. Carolyn Kee of Woodville signs the guest registry in the Argentina Baptist Building.

(Continued from page 1)  
secretary, Ignacio Loreda, who spoke at the Mississippi Baptist Convention last fall; and then they all went to the church in Once (pronounced On-say, it means eleven though there may be some other meaning since it refers to a section of downtown Buenos Aires) for a final good-bye program put on by the women of Argentina and a gigantic tea party.

The president of the woman's organization in Argentina, Senora Bresci, wife of the pastor of First Baptist Church, Mendoza, rode 13 or 14 hours on a bus to be at the meeting.

Kelly and I spent a good deal of time in Neuquen immediately after Georgia Collum and Maude Womack had been there. We had occasion to visit extensively with Lorenzo Klink, the pastor of First Baptist Church, Neuquen, and president of the Argentine Baptist Convention. This church carries on a ministry in its area that defies the imagination until one sees it, and this will be the subject of a later piece. Concerning the efforts of the women from Mississippi, however, Klink said, "The visit of the women was a good experience. It was very positive. It will

pave the way for working with other groups."

It was quite an experience to attend the final good-bye at the Once church. At least 200 women had come from all over Argentina to be there for the meeting. The 20 Mississippi women were the guests of honor. They were all asked to share their experiences in Argentina, and there were some poignant remarks. At the end Mrs. Bresci presented Mrs. Kelly a plaque in appreciation for the ministry of the Mississippi women. It will hang in the Baptist Building.

For some reason I was asked to participate on the program, and it was a rare privilege to be a part of such an international gathering of dedicated women. My remarks were brief, but I believe them deeply; and I feel they sum up the heart of the partnership effort in which Mississippi Baptists are now engaged. The gist was that nowhere is there to be found a stronger bond than there is among Christian brothers and sisters wherever they are found, and nowhere is this more aptly illustrated than in the fellowship that unites Baptists around the world. The Argentine Baptists made us feel

welcome and at home among them during this trip. There was no hostility on the part of the Argentines generally, though they seemed to feel hurt over the United States decision to side with England in the unfortunate Malvinas (Falklands) crisis. There will be other reports from week to week.

As we were preparing to leave Argentina a group of 14 evangelists from Mississippi arrived. They have now returned to Mississippi with reports of very positive results. At this writing the Mississippi Singing Churchmen had just returned from South America.

The partnership is showing results that will be known only in heaven.

The other women who went were Mrs. John D. Thomas, Hattiesburg; Mrs. Carolyn Kee, Woodville; Mrs. Frank Gunn, Biloxi; Mrs. Howard Parker, Prentiss; Mrs. Owen Cooper, Yazoo City; Mrs. Ingram Foster, Prentiss; Mrs. Vince Scoper, Laurel; Mrs. James Fancher, Coffeeville; Mrs. Martha Jean Alvis, Jackson; Mrs. Frances Smira, Jackson; and Mrs. Anne Alexander, Greenville.

## CLC award goes to Graham

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has presented its Distinguished Service Award to evangelist Billy Graham for his contributions in applied Christianity.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission, and the six members of the commission's executive committee presented the award to Graham just prior to the second service of the Central Florida Billy Graham Crusade at the Tangerine Bowl here.

"We are presenting you with this plaque because you have been a faithful preacher of the whole gospel of God in Christ," Valentine told Graham. "You have emphasized in your preaching the divine imperative both to practice and to preach the whole gospel. You have been an authentic advocate of personal morality of the finest kind."

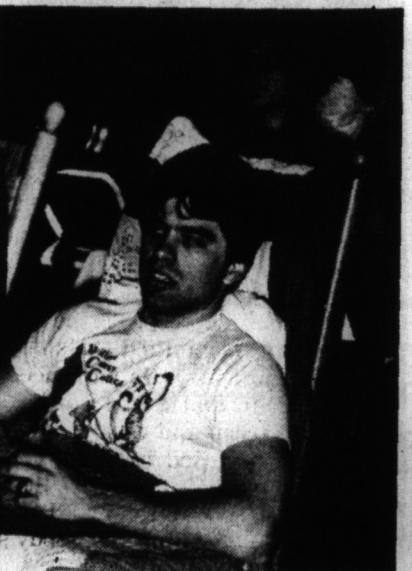
"There were periods of time when I first started my ministry that I could do some things or get involved in certain things in which I would almost have to apologize for being a Southern Baptist," Graham recalled. "But no longer, because we (Southern Baptists) are now involved all over the world, not only in preaching and teaching, but also in social service and in social justice."

## Ministers' wives focus on "Work of Our Hands"

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP)—The 28th annual luncheon of the Conference of Ministers' Wives will be held June 14 in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The theme will be "The Work of Our Hands." Items of handwork will be displayed on various tables and each woman will receive a representation of local artwork. The keynote speaker will be Robbie Ellis, a former missionary to Brazil, and music will be presented by R. L. and Beth Sigrest from Yazoo City, Miss.

Tickets to the 12:30 p.m. meeting at the William Penn Hotel will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the convention. Seating is limited and reservation deadline is May 31. Reservations and payment may be sent to Barbara Combs, 361 Collinsford Road, Tallahassee, Fla., 32301. Tickets may be picked up at the reservations table during the WMU Convention/Pastor's Conference.



## Overnight rock

Friends of student missions pledged more than \$600 toward a 12-hour rock-a-thon by the Baptist Student Union of William Carey College. Other money-raising events at Carey this year have been Appreciation Day, a Carnation sale at Valentine's, a Christian concert, a penny drive, and through personal giving. Carey has a \$3,000 goal for Mississippi student missions. Pictured in the foreground is BSU rocker Daniel Caldwell.

## Religious educators' focus: "A Disciplined Ministry"

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 28th annual session June 12-13 just prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

The theme for the meeting, which will be held in the Marriott Hotel, Greentree, is "A Disciplined Ministry."

Sunday afternoon will focus on "Strengthening Families" and "A Disciplined Response to God's Call." Robert and Mary F. Bailey, pastor and wife from Southside Church in Birmingham, Ala., and Paul Thompson, director of church development division, Missouri Baptist Convention, will be the main speakers.

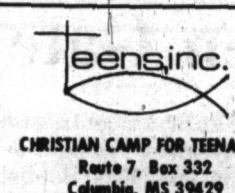
Monday morning sessions will be built around "Disciplined Church Growth Through Reaching and Discipling" (with presentations by Richard Foster, associate professor and writer-in-residence at Friends University in Wichita, Kan.; Lucien Colman, professor of religious education at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Harry Piland, minister of education at First Church, Houston) and "Discipling Communications Technology in Servicing Growing Churches" (featuring a speech by Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board).

At the annual SBREA luncheon Monday, "Celebration of Discipline," the Distinguished Leadership Awards will be presented and humorist Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, Miss., will entertain.

Monday afternoon participants will select from 10 enrichment conferences. The closing session Monday

night, "Disciplined For A World Witness" will include a report on Bold Mission Thrust by Wilmer C. Fields, assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, and a joint presentation by R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and William Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

At three of the sessions Albert McClellan, author, seminary professor, and longtime program planner for the SBC Executive Committee until his retirement in 1980, will speak.



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## Discount air fare offered Baptists going to Pittsburgh

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists flying to the annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June are eligible for a special rate from Delta Air Lines.

According to Robert Thompson, sales coordinator for the airline, Delta will discount its normal day coach fare 25 percent for those taking advantage of the offer. If a lower promotional fare is available to Pittsburgh from a particular city, Delta will offer that fare.

Anyone interested should tell the travel agent or the Delta ticket agent that he or she is attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, June 14-16 and would like to accept the

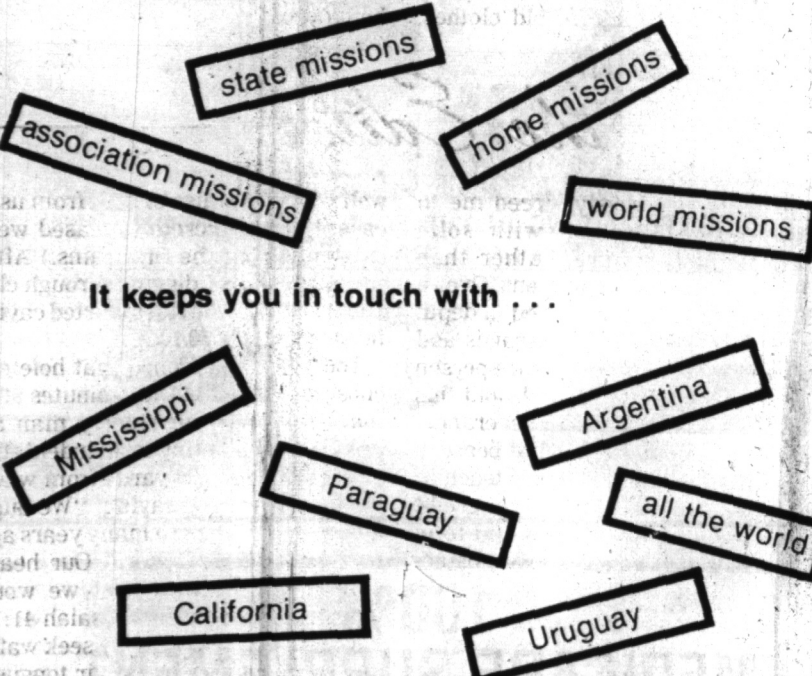
Delta Air Lines offer of "YE-186 25 percent discount fare," or any lower fare that may be available. The agent can verify the offer by calling the Delta convention office, 1-800-241-6108, or individuals can call the same number for the additional information.

Since Delta does not fly to Pittsburgh on a non-stop basis there will be a connection in Atlanta. For anyone in cities not served by Delta, the airline has offered to make reservations and travel arrangements on the carrier of the traveler's choice to a point Delta does serve.

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# Seminary trustees meet

## Midwestern

KANSAS CITY, MO—During their annual meeting April 11-12, trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected two new faculty members, approved a ten-year campus master development plan and adopted a 1983-84 budget of \$3,100,000.

Trustees elected Donald E. Hammer as director of theological field education and associate professor of ministry studies. W. Hulitt Gloer was elected assistant professor of New Testament. Both men will join the faculty this summer.

Hammer, 46, a native of Oklahoma, is director of the metropolitan missions department of the Home Mission Board.

Gloer, 32, is assistant professor of

New Testament at North America Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D. Trustees advanced Thomas G. Smothers to professor of Old Testament Literature and Hebrew, effective August 1, 1983. Smothers was elected to the faculty in 1979.

The campus development plan is designed to provide energy efficient facilities and tie the inner campus together by adding a central traffic circle and enclosing several walkways, according to Seminary President Milton Ferguson.

A new teaching/learning resource center will be constructed, providing twice the space of the existing library. The center will house written and multi-media resources, labs, curriculum materials and world missions and urban evangelism information centers.

The present library building will be converted into a new student center. The center will include food services, a student activity area, post office, medical clinic, book store and meeting rooms.

Also projected for the seminary are 12,000 square feet of new classroom space, a family life and physical health center, additional student housing, a new chapel and a visitors' center.

The total construction cost for the inner campus development is estimated at \$10,662,000. Projected completion date is 1993.

## Southern

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Faculty appointments and adoption of a record operating budget dominated the agenda for trustees of Southern Seminary in their annual meeting April 12-13.

Trustees elected William B. Rogers Jr. as professor of history and philosophy of education, with tenure, effective Aug. 1.

Rogers had held a similar position at New Orleans Seminary since 1974, and he has been chairman of that seminary's academic division since 1977.

Trustees also recorded the presidential appointments of Donoso Escobar as assistant professor of social work and Paul A. Richardson as assistant professor of church music. Both appointments are for three-year terms, beginning Aug. 1.

Escobar, a native Nicaraguan, has been director of immigration and refugee service for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1982. Richardson has directed admissions and student records at Southern since 1982 and has been adjunct professor of

church music since 1979.

The board named John N. Jonsson as the W.O. Carver professor of missions and world religions, effective Aug. 1. Jonsson joined the faculty in 1982 after a teaching career in South Africa, where he was born to Scandinavian Baptist missionaries who worked among the Zulu-speaking people.

Four faculty members were granted tenure during the board meeting.

Trustees also approved a request by Dale Moody, professor of Christian theology, for a one-year leave of absence beginning Aug. 1, which will bring to a close his 35 years on the seminary faculty. Details were reported in the Baptist Record, April 21.

In addition, the trustees adopted a record \$10.6 million operating budget for the fiscal year beginning Aug. 1. The budget includes a 10 percent increase in the faculty-staff salary scale and an eight percent increase in the clerical - secretarial - manual salary scale.

The board also adopted a goal of \$4.5

million to be secured by trustees during the next three years. This will be part of the seminary's current \$50 million capital and endowment effort.

They adopted a capital budget of \$300,000, to include building and renovation projects and purchase of equipment. And they increased rental charges for student housing by approximately five percent.

The board adopted a resolution commending Southern President Roy L. Honeycutt on the first anniversary of his inauguration as president.

New officers elected by trustees include James L. Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. First vice chairman will be Ben R. Murphy, vice president of Tyler Corporation in Dallas, Texas, who also will be chairman of the trustee executive committee.

Other new officers are David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., second vice chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt, Louisville real estate agent, secretary.

## Golden Gate

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—The Board of Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary set a record budget, elected an executive vice president, and welcomed the seminary's new president during its annual meeting April 18-20.

In adopting a budget of \$3,422,909, trustees awarded nine percent living increases to faculty and staff, approved several faculty promotions, and granted sabbatical leaves to four faculty members.

The board held its first meeting with newly-elected President Franklin D. Pollard, former pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and preacher for the "Baptist Hour" radio program, who was elected in a special called meeting in February.

To assist the new president, trustees unanimously elected Jackson, Miss., attorney Charles Carter, as executive vice president. Carter will work with Academic Dean W. Morgan Patterson, and seminary vice presidents Eugene

V. England and Robert Cannon to form the administrative council.

Trustees also approved the organization of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation, Inc., and the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Housing and Development Corporation which has been accepted by the Southern Baptist Convention to aid the school in its financial development program and in providing housing for students and faculty.

## Gregory and Merritt to visit Garaywa

Christine (Mrs. A. Harrison) Gregory, the first woman to be elected president of the state convention of Southern Baptists in Virginia, will be a featured speaker at the Baptist Women Retreat, to be held at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, on Friday and Saturday, May 13-14.

The immediate past president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Mrs. Gregory has also served as a first vice-president of the Southern Baptist



Gregory



Merritt

Convention. She will speak three times on the program at Garaywa, which begins at 2:30 May 13 and concludes with lunch on May 14.

"Women With Vision" is the theme of the weekend retreat for Baptist Women and will also spotlight Bible study and world missions. In addition, there will be small group conferences in Baptist Women skills and methods.

Mrs. John Merritt will be one of the missionary speakers. She and her husband work with English-language Baptist churches in Europe.

Cost for the retreat is \$15. This includes food and lodging. Linens need to be brought. Reservations may be sent prior to May 10 to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

## Staggs, Axtell leaders of Chesedh meeting

Frank and Evelyn Staggs of Bay St. Louis and Rick Axtell of Natchez will be among the conference leaders for a "Chesedh" (covenant love) conference sponsored and hosted by St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, May 13-15.

Staggs is senior professor of New Testament at Southern Seminary and Axtell is youth minister and activities director at Parkway Church, Natchez.

Staggs will speak on the theme "People of Faith in a World of Hurt." To register, write the church at 7100 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans; La. 70118, phone (504) 861-9514. A \$10 registration fee is requested.

## Jasper will sponsor 3-day outreach seminar

An outreach motivation seminar for Jasper Association will be held May 9, 10, and 12 at Lake Como Church. The sessions will begin at 7 p.m. W. E. Greene, director of missions, will be the teacher; and there will be inspirational messages on Monday and Tuesday evenings. There will be a commitment message on Thursday. J. W. Williams, pastor of Shady Grove Church and associational missions commitment chairman, and W. P. Miles, pastor of Louin Church and associational Sunday School director, will be in charge. The seminar will be designed to aid pastors, Sunday school workers, adults, and youth, Miles said.

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

May 8 Christian Home Sunday (CAC Emphasis)  
May 10 Associational Planning Workshop; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (PD)  
May 13-14 Baptist Women's Retreat; Camp Garaywa, Clinton; 2:30 p.m., 13th-2:30 p.m., 14th (WMU)

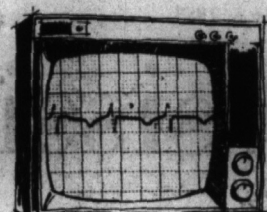
## Youth ministers join DREAM for workshop

In conjunction with DREAM (Drug Research and Education Association in Mississippi), the Hinds/Madison Baptist Youth Ministers' Association is promoting a Drug Intervention Training Workshop on Monday, May 23, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn North.

The workshop will be open to youth ministers and to those who work with youths in various capacities. The cost, which includes the noon meal and materials, is \$20.

This workshop will teach participants to recognize the signs and symptoms of drug usage, teach drug facts and active intervention in drug abuse situations, and acquaint individuals with resources regarding treatment.

For further information or reservations, call DREAM at 362-9329. Reservations must be made by noon, May 20. A maximum of 50 people (with a minimum of 15) will be accepted for the workshop.



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Thank you and keep up the good work.—A friend in Christ.

Dear friend in Christ: Thank you for an affirming word. We sense your heartache and your daughter's pain. If the husband desires reconciliation and wishes to rebuild the marriage relationship, the wife has the option of forgiveness. He may express his desire either by action or attitude. Such relationship can be restored and become solid and happy. On the other hand, if there is no evidence of repentance and he wants out of his commit-

ment, it would seem the marriage is really dead.

Divorce is not to be desired. It is in that it breaks God's original intention for marriage, but it is not the unpardonable sin. Many good Christian people find themselves in this unfortunate trauma and destructive relationship. They feel they have failed in marriage and need to be reminded that failure in one realm of life (as important as marriage is) does not make one a failure. Our failures can be made stepping stones to a constructive life. God's grace is sufficient to take any life and make it fruitful, fulfilling, and victorious. If your daughter is facing divorce, she might profit by reading Hensley, Coping with Being Single Again or Crook, An Open Book to a Christian Divorcee, both by Broadman Press.

Your responsibility as a parent is to stand by in unconditional love.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Baptist volunteers aid Beirut embassy victims

By Frances Fuller

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Steve and Meriam Fox, Southern Baptist extended service volunteers to Lebanon, are helping victims of the April 18 bombing attack on the American Embassy in Beirut.

Less than an hour after the explosion, which killed at least 60 and injured more than 100 persons, the Foxes received a call from a man in Philadelphia asking the Kettering, Ohio, couple to check on his son's safety.

The Foxes went immediately to the American University Hospital, where Mrs. Fox does volunteer work every Tuesday. Within three hours they were able to tell the anxious father that his son was seriously injured but would survive.

Mrs. Fox offered to arrange round-the-clock assistance in the rooms of injured Americans, since most of them had no family members to be with

them. Hospitals in the Middle East assume family members will be present with seriously ill patients.

She enlisted the aid of other members of the American Women's Club to help her sit with patients who needed to be watched. Some were not only injured physically but experienced grief or emotional shock because they lost spouses in the blast.

Fox, a layman, is pastor of English-speaking University Baptist Church in Beirut. Members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, the Foxes arrived in Beirut last November.

(Frances Fuller is missionary press representative for Lebanon.)

## Drama plants witness seeds

By Tim Nicholas

"The greatest value of the performing arts is to plant seeds," said Ev Robertson, drama consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board and a leader at the recent church drama festival held at First Church, Grenada.

These seeds, said Robertson, can be reaped later in some of our more traditional evangelistic activities."

Robertson pointed to Southern Baptists' pavilion at the Knoxville World's Fair where the gospel message was presented to thousands of people "who would never come in a church," he said.

He noted that puppets used in such places as shopping malls are good examples of seed planting. "They can project truth to us when we're being unsuccessful in doing that in other ways," said Robertson.

Robertson said that gospel puppetry, along with drama in general, is catching on like never before. He recounted that a woman had attended a conference on puppetry "to prove that to use puppets was of the devil." He said that in the course of the conference, the woman decided there was potential value in transmitting the gospel message in many situations.

Several hundred pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention, said Robertson, are using dramatic monologues and there is a general openness to church drama nowadays. "Pastors are open to any kind of communication process that's going to help them communicate the gospel," he said. The key, said Robertson, is that drama must be appropriate and must fit, not so much drama as communication.

"I find that churches that have adults active with the performing arts tend to be outgoing evangelical Christians," said Robertson. "It's a small step from the stage to a verbal witness. Stage presence builds confidence."

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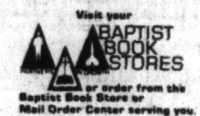
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# Bible study highlights apartment dwellers' week

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Two men and ten women met for Bible study Wednesday morning, Apr. 20, in the apartment of Mrs. David Jenkins at University Commons, Laurel. They represented Presbyterians, Missionary Baptists, Pentecostals, and Church of God, as well as Southern Baptists.

"This is the highlight of our week," several of the senior citizens agreed. "It is a time that belongs to all of us—a time of special fellowship," one said. Once a month, they lunch together.

While the study was in progress, one of the women received a message that her brother had just died. However, she did not wish to leave until the study hour was over, for she said, "What better could I be doing, at a time like this, than studying my Bible?"

The group meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 with Mrs. Jenkins, in her conveniently roomy, downstairs apartment. Her husband, before his death last year, had been leader of the non-denominational Bible study for six or seven years, following a heart attack and subsequent retirement from the pastorate of Southern Baptist churches. After Jenkins' death, July 10, 1982, at age 75, his wife wanted to keep the study going, and has done so, at the request of the other participants.

Buster Wilson, pastor, Community Baptist Church, Laurel, is current teacher of the weekly Bible study. On Apr. 20 he led in the discussion of John 8. He and his family are residents of University Commons.

When the Jenkinses first moved to

Laurel and University Commons seven years ago, he volunteered to be chaplain to the apartment residents and soon began teaching the Bible study which had already been in progress for quite a few years. Also he initiated a covered dish dinner for the residents, to be held four or five times a year.



Mrs. David Jenkins serves as hostess for the Bible study at University Commons. She is a pastor's widow, a writer, and formerly was a newspaperwoman.

Mrs. Jenkins recalls, "I had taught mission study books all my life and knew of missions activities in apartment complexes all over the U.S. I wanted to be a part of something similar, if I could." As a result, she began a twice-monthly program for children living in the apartments. "We used to have 20 or more children, but the number has dwindled, for not as many children live here now," she said. They meet in the recreation room for refreshments, singing, games, stories, crafts, and Bible study. "GAs from Highland Baptist Church, Laurel, come at Easter to serve refreshments and help with the recreation."

The weekly Bible study for residents was first begun at the suggestion of Mrs. Preston Price, so that her husband (he had been in a wheelchair for

many years) could attend. Now Mrs. Price lives at NuCare Convalescent Home. Various persons have taken turns leading the study, including the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Laurel, and Charles McLeod, retired Church of God preacher.

Ina Hayes Jenkins edits "Page Two" of the University Commons Apartment News, published monthly by the apartment complex manager, Mrs. Jimmy Weems. Mrs. Jenkins was formerly on the staff of and still writes a poetry column for a newspaper in Burgaw, N. C. Her story, "God Prepared Us for Death," was published in the April issue of Focus, The Christian Woman's Magazine.

Her husband of 52 years was a newspaperman until he entered the pastorate at age 37. He was sports writer and later make-up editor for the sports section of The Atlanta Journal. His first full-time pastorate was at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel. Other pastorates he held were in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and Mississippi. Following his heart attack at Ridgecrest Conference Center in 1975, he and his wife moved to Laurel; he continued to do interim pastorates and supply preaching.

Mrs. Jenkins is a member of Houston Road Baptist Church, Laurel, where her daughter, Mrs. Ann Touchstone, and some of her seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren are also members. Her son, Doyle, lives in Baltimore.

David had helped plan the menu for a meal the next day. (He died that night.) He had written a note beside the menu, in bold letters, and placed it on the refrigerator door: "I've done my part; the rest is up to you." One way Ina Jenkins is doing her part is in helping to keep the Bible study going.

## Clarke hosts alumni homecoming

Clarke College held its annual alumni homecoming on April 16.

A special convocation at 10 a.m. featured the Clarke College Singers and Lewis Nobles, president of the college. Evelyn Williams, director of financial aid and alumni, and Dow Ford, dean of student services, spoke about upcoming events during this 75th year anniversary of the institution.

Alumni later divided into groups, meeting to coordinate plans for Sept. 17, Clarke's special day of anniversary celebration. More anniversary celebrations plans are upcoming, and will be announced later.

### Revival Results

Zion Hill Church, Wesson: Apr. 10-15; 10 professions of faith; two additions by letter; last year's Sunday School average attendance, 110; Tuesday night revival attendance, 335; evangelist, Albert Wilkerson, pastor, Bogue Chitto Church (Pike); pastor, J. Frank Smith.

Rocky Hill near Wesson: Apr. 21-24; full house nightly; Saturday night, the sanctuary packed; Frank Smith, pastor of Zion Hill, evangelist; Carey Paul Douglas, interim pastor; four professions of faith.

### Homecomings

Oak Grove Church, near Noxapater: homecoming; memorial services; May 8; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; W. A. McPheeters, pastor, to preach at 11 a.m.; lunch to be served at the church.

Pine Hill Church, Enterprise (Clarke): homecoming; May 8; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:30; lunch in fellowship hall; singing in afternoon; Billy C. Johnson, guest speaker; Roy A. Garrison, interim pastor.

## FBC, Yazoo City sets marriage meet

First Church, Yazoo City, is sponsoring a Marriage Enrichment Conference, May 13-14, for persons of all faiths.

It begins with supper Friday evening, May 13, and concludes the next afternoon.

Conference sessions will be directed by Jerry Clark and Gayden Harrell of Family Foundations, Inc., of Jackson. There is no charge for the conference. However, since meals and nursery facilities must be prepared, pre-registration for the conference is required through the office at First Church. James Yates is pastor.

Thursday, May 5, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 1

## Names in the News

Marvin H. Hall, vice president of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, was elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives during its annual meeting. Also elected were Harold T. Kitchings, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation, as vice president, and Christine M. Bess, administrative assistant, Southern Baptist Foundation, as secretary-treasurer.

Sue Tatum, Yazoo City, state representative for the National Council of Advisors for Women in Evangelism, recently attended a planning meeting for Dayspring, a meeting for women focusing on personal spiritual growth and lifestyle witnessing. Dayspring will be held in Ridgecrest, N. C., Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1983, and again in Fort Worth, Tex., Apr. 12-14, 1984. Registration information is available from Laura Fry Allen, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

Gary Cornett, full time music evangelist who has been a member of Ashland Baptist Church, has built a new home and moved to Louisville, Miss. His new address is Route 4, Box 42-H, Louisville, Miss. 39339 (phone 601-773-8438). He is available for revivals, concerts, and retreats. He and his family are now members of South Louisville Baptist Church.

Harrisville Baptist Church, Simpson County, on Apr. 17 licensed Charles Kent Crocker to the gospel ministry. Gene Erwin is the Harrisville pastor.

Sand Hill (George-Greene) has ordained Boyd Bales as deacon. Boyd is a coach. Phil Walker preached the ordination sermon. Bruce Worrell is the pastor.

Gary N. Garner has resigned from the administration of Clarke College to become academic dean and registrar at Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va. He will assume duties at Bluefield on June 1. Garner is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Garner of Prentiss. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, received the M.A. degree from the University of Mississippi and Ph.D. in German and French from LSU.

In 1957-58 he received a Fulbright Scholarship to study German literature and language at Leopold Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria. Prior to coming to Clarke College, he was Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages at Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas. He is a deacon in First Baptist Church, Newton. His wife Mary, has served as assistant registrar at Clarke.

Mark Barrett, student at Mississippi College, on April 24 at First Baptist Church, Pearl, made public his life commitment to a Christian vocation. He plans to enter the field of music. Barrett lives at 236 Childre Road, Pearl, Miss. 39208. Stanley B. Barnett is pastor at First, Pearl.

## Staff Change

Terry Harold Garvin has been named associate pastor/minister of education of First Baptist Church, Corinth. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Blue Mountain College and has studied at Southern Seminary, the University of Mississippi, and Delta State University. He has served as pastor of four Mississippi churches, and as mission pastor in Fort Benton, Mont., and has worked extensively with youth.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Union, has called Jamie Meaders of Hickory as music director. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Meaders, and will enter Clarke College in the fall. Steve Purvis is pastor.

Piave Baptist Church (George-Greene Association) has called Billie Henderson as pastor. He will be ordained on May 15 at Piave.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Holmes County, has called Rick Alford as pastor. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He is a native of Moss Point.

John T. Forrester has been called as pastor of Bala Chitto Baptist Church, Pike County. He is from Columbus, Ga., and is a student at New Orleans Seminary. Bala Chitto is his first pastorate in Mississippi. He has been pastor and youth minister in several Georgia churches.

J. Mitchell Osborne, former pastor of Pope Baptist Church, Pope, Miss., is available for revival or supply preaching, interim or full time pastorate. He may be contacted at 413 East 5th Ave., Petal, Miss (phone 544-2988). Osborne, a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., has served pastorates in California and Mississippi.

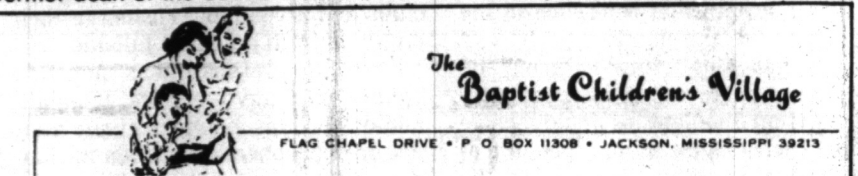
Death is the great adventure, beside which moon landings and space trips pale into insignificance.—Joseph Bayly.

## THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM  
**Baptist Children's Village**  
P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213



Joe and other Village children listen intently as Alan Keith-Lucas spends some afternoon time with them sharing stories of "Brer Rabbit and de Tar Baby." Keith-Lucas, a childcare authority and lecturer, was on The India Nunnery Campus recently leading a workshop on "Task-Oriented Programming" for all Village staff. Keith-Lucas is the founder and past director of Group Child Care Consultant Services and former dean of the School of Social Work, University of North Carolina.



Dear Friends:

Do you know... have you any idea how important—how vital—you are to our children? We, as Mississippi Baptists, have accepted the most heart-warming, heart-breaking, and most challenging of missions when we reached out in the Father's name to care for children and families who are experiencing unbelievable depths of brokenness in their lives. During this time of Family emphasis, CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK—May 1-8, will you prayerfully, and boldly examine your part—as individuals and as churches—in this important role?

We are so often shown that a child's feelings about himself are directly related to the feelings about him held and conveyed to him by the significant—the important—people in his life.

You are important to our children! How will you respond to this?

Sincerely,

Ruth Glaze  
Director of Church Relations

RG:ct

## Congratulations, Village graduates!

The Children's Village believes formal education, with the support of a stable, Christian home environment, to be basic to the needs of every boy and girl. It has been our rewarding joy, through the years, to mark the academic achievements of so many of our special young people.

Many hundreds have become high school graduates while in our custodial care; many dozens have graduated, as Village wards, from colleges and universities in this state.

Thousands of others have found stability, motivation, and direction for their academic lives, during their more abbreviated tenure in our care.

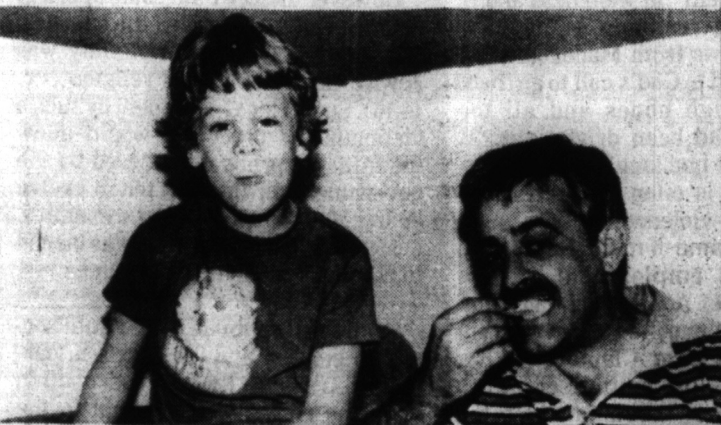
In 1983, we salute and commend Village graduates, including the following:

Mississippi State University Robin Millet. Clinton High School Lenora Ramseur, Linda Sims, Donna Lamb. Independence High School T. J. Clardy, Steve Serpas, Carolyn Chafin. Brookhaven High School Kathy Miller. W. P. Daniel High School, New Albany Marilyn Eldridge, Sean Milner.

The Children's Village, supported by the gifts of Mississippi's Baptist churches brings the strength of formal education to these and thousands of other boys and girls who have been or will become our responsibility and our trust.

The principal and faculty of Sumner Hill Junior High School are pleased to announce the election of Lois Gill to membership in the Sumner Hill Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (Lois is a Village resident on The India Nunnery Campus)

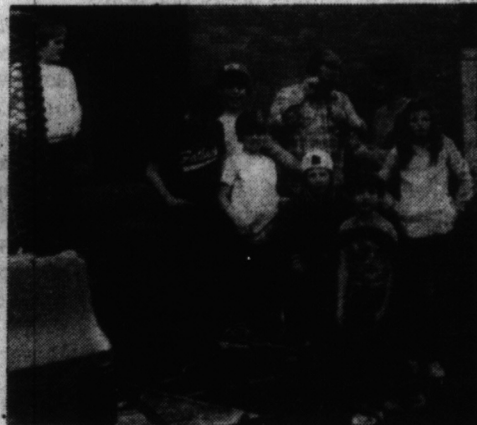
## Signs of spring



Ice cream breaks



Raking leaves



Bike repairs

Just glance at some of our "Operating Expenses"

NAME	DATE	BUSINESS	INDIVIDUAL	ITEMS	TERMS	FOL.	CREDIT	DEBIT	LIMIT	RATING	CREDITS	BALANCE
				medical expenses				40000				
				building repairs				50000				
				utilities				10000				
				groceries				15000				
				insurance payments				21000				
				interest payments				6000				
				F.I.C.A. taxes				37000				
				vehicle operation				40000				
				equipment replacement				30000				

...and none of the above expenses include clothing, debt retirement or salary expenses for substitute parents or support staff!

In 1982-83, The Children's Village is providing Christian childcare --- shelter, food, clothing, emotional and physical and spiritual support --- to young people and families in need at a cost of \$16<sup>43</sup> per day per child. We cannot meet those critical needs without your individual and collective commitment of financial support. Over 70% of our budget needs must be met by direct support -- designated giving -- from Village friends who put their caring into action! Please remember us this very moment with your support...financially and prayerfully...during these extremely critical days for all of us.

thank you!



## Southeastern trustees set \$5.2 million budget

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)—In their spring meeting, trustees of Southeastern Seminary elected Thomas R. McKibbens, Jr., as associate professor of preaching; adopted a 1983-84 budget of \$5,201,276 and gave the go-ahead for final planning and bids for a new student center.

McKibbens, 35, a native of Alabama, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and holds M. Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has done further study at Regent's Park College, Oxford, and the University of St. Andrews.

The pastor of First Baptist Church, Bristol, Va., until early this year, McKibbens presently is on a study leave and will join the Southeastern faculty in the summer of 1984. He will occupy the teaching post held since 1955 by J. Carroll Trotter who is retiring this July.

Construction of the student center concludes a long and detailed study into student activity needs. The new facility, to be funded with \$1 million from the Cooperative Program capital needs budget and the remainder from gifts, will provide the seminary with a center equipped with lounge and dining areas, post office, book store, meeting rooms, areas for sports and physical fitness and a center for commuting students. Total construction costs are estimated to be \$2,746,000.

Other action by the trustees: —granted tenure to William P. Clemmons, professor of Christian education;

—adopted a new seminary logo developed by the Public Relations Council and

—established the following endowment funds: the Claud B. Bowen Fund for unrestricted endowment, in honor of the pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., who for 19 years was a trustee of the seminary and for nine years its trustee chairman; the Charles Ray Rackley II Memorial Fund for student aid and the George T. Noel III Memorial Fund for scholarship purposes. (This action formally establishes a fund which has been in existence since 1962.)

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the maine... Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.—John Donne.

## Jones youth committee sponsors contemporary culture seminar

Jones County Baptist Associational Youth Committee is sponsoring a Contemporary Culture Seminar with Bob Larson. This seminar will be held on May 7, 9:00-4:30, at Trinity Baptist Church. The cost is \$15.00 per person and \$12.50 for each additional family member.



Bob Larson is a broadcaster from Denver, Colo. He has written ten books describing the impact of rock music, cults, drugs, and the occult.

Currently studying for a doctorate, he has visited more than 70 countries to gather materials for his broadcasts, books, and messages. He has produced films and television series, and conducted crusades. Before becoming an ordained minister he attended the University of Nebraska and was a rock musician.

His daily one-hour program,

"Talk-Back with Bob Larson," is aired on over 50 stations in the U.S. It is on WJXN in Jackson at 3 o'clock.

More information may be secured from Thomas Winn, associational youth director, at 425-4276.

## Liberty youths to sponsor barbecue and singing

Youths of Liberty Baptist Church, Flowood, are sponsoring a chicken and hamburger barbecue, to be held May 14 at the church, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Immediately after the barbecue supper, a time of gospel singing will feature the Sons of Faith Quartet.

Tickets are not required. Plates will cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Benefits will go toward expenses of the youths who will attend a youth retreat at Gulfshore in August. More information may be obtained by calling Mike Franklin at 939-7582.



LIZANA BAPTIST MISSION, Gulf Coast Association, was constituted Mar. 27 as LIZANA BAPTIST CHURCH. Part of the near capacity crowd is pictured signing the roll as charter members. "The church has been experiencing the spirit of revival for the past year," said Gerald H. Walker, pastor. Jerry Estes, pastor of New Hope, the parent church, and Bobby C. Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association, also took part in the service.



JO BETH HOLYFIELD, Naomi Watson, Kimberly Bolen, and Renee Whisenant, members of First Baptist Church, Corinth, have attained the level of Queen in Acteens. They were crowned in a recent Studiaet recognition service which had as its theme "Look to the Rainbow." The girls are pictured with Terry Garvin, associate pastor.



PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, ASHLAND, has bought a 1979 Chevrolet van. "The church gave nearly \$1,800 toward the purchase so that a minimum of money would have to be borrowed," reports Tommy Mitchell, pastor. The van will be paid for in September, 1983. The church has also added a nursery and a library.



PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH near Ashland held appreciation day recently for Harry Phillips, center, director of missions, Benton-Tippah associations. Tommy Mitchell, pastor, right, presented a plaque of appreciation. Earl Kelly, left, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke in the morning service. Lunch was served at the church. "This was all a surprise to Bro. Harry," said Mitchell. "He thought he was going to preach!"

Airport Baptist Church, Grenada, recently painted and performed repair work on its facilities. The auditorium and education building were both painted and also had ceiling repair done. "This work greatly improves the appearance of our facilities," said the pastor, Paul Blanchard.

You can doubt God out of your schools, you can write God out of your books, you can rule God out of your nation, and you can laugh God out of your life; but you cannot ignore God out of your death. For most this is too late learned, but no less lethal.

## SCRAPBOOK

### Memories of my mother

She taught me to be good, kind, and polite. She taught me to say my prayers at night. She taught me to love and fear the Lord, respect his house, and reverence his Word.

She cared for me in sickness and pain. And nursed me back to health again. She kissed and brushed away my tears, and comforted me in all my fears.

She did without, in sacrifice. That I might have things that were nice. She sewed for me with loving hands. New

clothes unmatched by famous brands. She washed and ironed and cooked and cleaned. And scrubbed and polished 'til the whole house gleamed. She laughed and loved and lived for others.

To me she was the greatest of mothers. God made the world a wonderful place With one thing and another—But the most perfect gift he gave to us was a kind and loving mother.

—Molly Fairchild, Moselle

### The mystery of the blind man

The mystery of the blind man: He told his story well—How God had touched him And he knew he had to tell. Even though he was blind God fixed it so he could see—Through power of his grace

And a man upon a tree. He knows no other master; God's love has set him free. The mystery of the blind man's there For all the world to see.

Pat Lee, Greenwood

## Bible Book

### Israel blessed

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor  
Calvary, Jackson

I Kings 9:1 through 10:29

This is the sixth and final lesson in the unit of study on "Solomon's early reign in covenant with God." It is a basic truth to all of life that the only way an individual or nation can truly prosper on this earth is in covenant relationship with God. This is God's creation. No one can take over any part of this creation and live productively and successfully without a trusting and obedient relationship with him. As long as Solomon and Israel sought to maintain even some degree of faithfulness to the covenant relationship, they were blessed.

God repeats his covenant to Solomon (I Kings 9:1-9). It evidently was soon after the completion and dedication of the Temple that Jehovah God appeared unto Solomon a second time as he had appeared unto him earlier in Gibeon (I Kings 3:5). There Solomon had asked God for an understanding heart. God was pleased with Solomon's prayer and promised him a wise and understanding heart plus riches and honor (I Kings 3:10-13).

When God appeared to Solomon this second time, he assured Solomon that his prayer at the dedication of the Temple had been heard. Furthermore, God assured Solomon that he had accepted the Temple and confirmed the Temple as the house of Jehovah by his presence (I Kings 9:3).

God repeated the offer of the covenant which he earlier had made to Solomon during the construction of the Temple, which is recorded in I Kings 6:11-13. The proffered covenant had to do with establishing "the throne of thy kingdom over Israel forever" (I Kings 9:5). God had made an unconditional promise to David to establish his kingdom forever (See II Samuel 7:12, 13, 16, 19). The prophets held tenaciously to that promise. It doubtless was the cornerstone in Isaiah's prediction that the virgin would conceive and bear a son whose name would be Immanuel. Notice, however, that God's offer to establish Solomon's throne forever (I Kings 9:5) was conditioned upon Solomon's walking before God as David his father had walked (I Kings 9:4). Solomon did not remain faithful to God. The promise to David was and is being fulfilled in the Messiah, the virgin-born descendant of David, Jesus of Nazareth. David's throne is established forever. Solomon's throne ultimately failed. Jesus of Nazareth was not a direct descendant of Solomon but of Nathan, one of David's other sons (Luke 3:31).

God's conditional offer to establish Solomon's throne forever was accompanied by a warning. The warning was that if Solomon and the people turned from Jehovah God and served other gods, they would be cast out of the land and the beautiful Temple which God had accepted would be destroyed (I Kings 9:6-9).

It should be observed that the writer gives no account of a response on Solomon's part. This was very much in contrast to his unselfish response when God had appeared to him in Gibeon, the ancient place of worship. His response, of course, was in his egotistical and comfort-crazed building program of his palace complex which continued as a burden upon the people for 13 years after the Temple was completed.

Much of this building program evidently was to please his many foreign wives who worshipped their many pagan gods. History would both reveal and be Solomon's response.

Solomon's unworthy payment of cities to Hiram (I Kings 9:10-14). Hiram seems to have faithfully and generously fulfilled his contract with Solomon by providing expensive materials and skilled workmen. Solomon deeded Hiram 20 border towns in western Galilee as partial payment. Hiram was displeased with the land and called it "Cabal," meaning "like nothing." Some church members still destroy their witness by their business practice.

Solomon's public works and enterprises (I Kings 9:15-28). The building program which Solomon developed was extensive, including store cities and fortresses. He built a navy and contracted with the Phoenicians to man the ships along the Red Sea. The ancient seaport of Eziongeber has been excavated in recent years, confirming an extensive metals industry and trade.

The queen of Sheba's visit (I Kings 10:1-13). The queen of Sheba traveled approximately 1,500 miles from southwest Arabia in order to visit Solomon. The purpose of the trip probably was to negotiate a trade agreement.

Wealth from Solomon's enterprises (I Kings 10:14-29). God abundantly fulfilled his promise to give Solomon wisdom, wealth, and honor. The tremendous economic prosperity, undergirded by extensive and advantageous trade and tariff policies, brought materialism to a high level of importance. The biblical writer has not mentioned a prophet since Nathan participated in anointing Solomon. Trouble was ahead.

## Uniform

### Conflict in Corinth

By John G. Armistead, pastor,  
Calvary, Tupelo

Acts 18:1-17

Most of us have experienced the "blues" at one time or another. The feeling can range from simply feeling "down" to genuine depression. In this passage of scripture we see the apostle Paul in the depths of depression and how he managed to find encouragement and come back strong.

At Philippi, after healing the slave girl, Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and jailed. Upon their release, the missionary team left Philippi, having seen the beginnings of a small but loving church (16:19f). They traveled to Thessalonica, and preached in the synagogue. Several Jews and God-fearing Gentiles responded to the gospel and another church was established. Soon, however, strong opposition from unbelieving Jews drove them on to the next Macedonian town, Berea. There the people at the synagogue readily accepted the gospel and another church was formed. Jews from Thessalonica, however, pursued Paul still. Paul was hurried out of Macedonia by the new converts while Silas and Timothy stayed behind. Paul gave them instructions to join him at Athens (17:1-15).

While at Athens Paul preached at Mars Hill. The gospel was ridiculed and only a handful believed. In frustration Paul left and went to Corinth (17:15-34). There is no New Testament record of any church at Athens.

I. Paul—afflicted and distressed (18:1-4).

Corinth was a very ancient city, very prosperous, and was noted for immorality (cf., I Cor. 6:9-11). The cult of the love goddess Aphrodite (in Latin, Venus) was quite strong, with 1,000 prostitutes serving the local temple. Paul described his mood at the time of his arrival as one of "affliction and distress" (I Thes. 3:7). Later he reminded the Christians in Corinth that he came to them "in weakness and in much fear and trembling" (I Cor. 2:3). He had no news from Macedonia. He had responded to God's call to go there with such high hopes and all too quickly he had been driven out. At Athens people had laughed at the gospel. Ridicule is often harder to face than physical violence.

In such a frame of mind, Paul found lodging and employment with a Jewish couple, Aquila and Priscilla, who had been expelled recently from Rome by Emperor Claudius (v. 2). These two fellow tentmakers were probably already Christians. On the Sabbaths, Paul went to the synagogue to worship and witness.

II. Paul—encouraged and empowered (18:5-11).

Soon Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia with a financial gift for Paul from the church at Philippi (Phi. 4:15). This gift enabled Paul to devote himself fulltime to preaching. They also brought good news about how well the church at Thessalonica was doing (v. 5). Paul wrote I Thessalonians at this time.

Paul's preaching took on renewed life. He no longer preached philosophically as he had at Athens (cf., 17:22f.) but was determined to preach nothing but "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). This vigorous and empowered preaching drew immediate opposition from unbelieving Jews. Paul then concentrated his attention at Corinth on the Gentiles (v. 6).

Having been driven from the synagogue, Paul established himself in a house next door belonging to a new convert, Titus Justus. As he left the synagogue the ruler of the synagogue, Crispus, and his family also left and joined the little fellowship of believers (vv. 7, 8). In the face of this strong opposition, Christ gave Paul another vision, assuring him of his presence and that the work there in Corinth would result in many people being saved (vv. 9, 10). Paul continued his work in Corinth eighteen months.

III. Paul receives persecution and protection (18:12-17).

From July 51 to August 52 A.D., Gallio, brother of the philosopher Seneca, was proconsul of Corinth. To him the Jews made an accusation against Paul, charging him with preaching an illegal religion (vv. 12, 13). Judaism was recognized by Rome as a legal religion. Paul would probably have defended himself as he later did before Felix and the younger Agrippa. On those occasions he explained that Christianity was not a new religion at all but the true expression of the faith of Israel.

However, before Paul could speak in defense Gallio dismissed the charges. His ruling was that Christianity was Jewish and thus a legal religion (vv. 14-16). Such a legal precedent by such a distinguished proconsul would allow the faith to spread unhindered by the government for the next ten to twelve years. The action by Paul's enemies, designed to harm him, thus was turned to his favor by divine providence.

Crime will continue to rise until society in general and the courts in particular transfer their preoccupation from the rights of the villain to the rights of the victim.—J. Edgar Hoover.

## Life and Work

### Sharing the good news

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Is. 51:4-8; 52:7-10

One of the truths concerning broadcasting is that a receiver is necessary to transmission. Israel earlier was incredibly deaf to the words of the Lord. After the years of suffering in captivity, the people were now ready to listen to what God had to say.

Listen, hear and hearken (Vv. 4-6). What God was about to say was of great significance. The disciple discerned correctly when he said: "Thou hast the words of life."

"The teaching" Isaiah refers to comes from the Hebrew word "torah." The holiest element of the Scriptures was the law which regulated the relationship of the people to God and to one another. Further, the first five books of the canon are called the books of "torah" or law. These occupy for the Jews about the same place Jesus holds for Christianity.

The significant thought in this passage of scripture is reference to the fact that "distant lands eagerly wait for his teaching" (law). During the ministry of Jesus, it is frequently pointed out, the Gentiles would receive Jesus with open arms. The Syro-Phoenician woman who touched the hem of his garment, the delegation of Greeks who said to Phillip "We would see Jesus," the centurion in Capernaum whose servant was ill and who had correctly concluded that Jesus could speak the word from afar and heal his servant, then, as at other times, Jesus said, "I have not seen so great faith among the Jews."

It seems today the most difficult place to win converts is here at home in America. Despite all the churches, the media's religious programming, and the millions of avowed Christians, the result is still a hardening of the hearts of many lost people to the gospel.

Missionaries tell of great crowds assembling in Brazil, India, Nigeria, and other places when the gospel is preached. This hunger and receptiveness for the gospel should certainly be met by Christian missions. The sower uses good sense in planting seeds in fertile soil rather than in the dry and rocky land where little chance for a harvest exists.

Along with the offering of salvation goes the threat of judgment to the unbelievers. Nothing is permanent in the heavens or on earth. Everything will perish so it is foolish to place one's hopes in treasures here.

Priorities need to be adjusted so the lasting and eternal are valued the most highly. For those who do, God's

salvation will not pass away, but will last forever.

Fear not (Vv. 7, 8).

Among Jesus' favorite words were those spoken to allay fears. "Don't be over anxious." "Let not your hearts be troubled," etc., are frequently addressed to worried and frightened people. If the people in Jesus' day needed this comfort, those in captivity hundreds of years earlier desperately needed it.

Taunts of the world should not bother "the people in whose heart is my law." On the way to the cross Jesus proclaimed, "My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth. . . . Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid."

I like the story of Alexander Kinglake, a noted explorer of Africa, a century ago. Kinglake and his companions were saddling horses and loading pack animals for the day's journey in the jungle. A horde of savages with painted faces, clutching war clubs and screaming, rushed in their direction from a nearby hillside.

Since no defense was possible against so many warriors, Kinglake admonished his men to continue making their preparations. When the savages were almost upon them, they drew up sharply. They thought "If these fair-skinned men are unafraid of us they must depend upon a power far greater than we for their defense. This being the case we dare not molest them."

Kinglake and his men mounted their horses and, leading their pack animals, rode away unharmed.

Israel then and we today need to know that no matter what the threats or how fierce the enemy may appear to be, no fatal harm can come to those "in whose heart lodge the laws of God."

The bearer of glad tidings (52:7-10)

The proclaimers of the gospel are beautiful to behold. The message they bring is "the balm of Gilead." Isaiah has correctly been called the "prince of the prophets," for he saw more clearly than any of his peers the "salvation of the Lord" in the coming of the "Suffering Servant."

### Off the Record

Reading from the suggestion box outside his office the boss said to his secretary, "I wish these employees would be more specific. What kind of kite? What lake?"

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, think how much some people must love their church.